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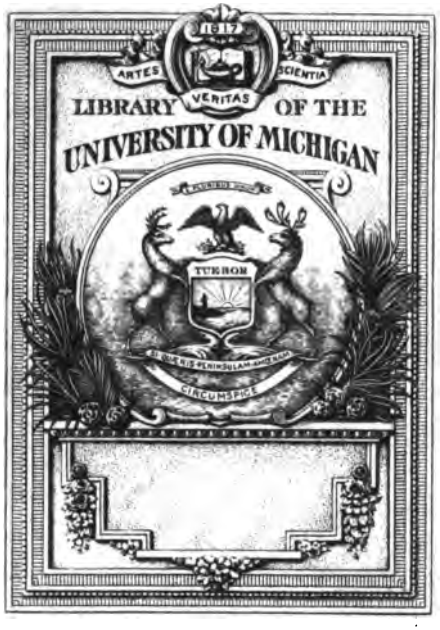

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BRENTANO'S VIEWS OF AMERICAN CITIES.

VIEWS

OF THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

Mount Vernon,
Arlington,
Alexandria.

BRENTANO'S

NEW YORK.
CHICAGO.
WASHINGTON.
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The Capitol

CCUPIES a commanding site on what is known as Capitol Hill. The cornerstone of the old Capitol, which is composed of Virginia sandstone, and now forms the centre of the imposing building, was laid by General Washington on the 18th day of September, 1794. Though the designs for it were drawn by William Thornton, an English resident of New York, the old Capitol is really the work of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, a famous English architect of the time. He it was who began rebuilding the Capitol after the British had burned it in 1814, and continued his work of restoration till 1817, when he resigned, and was replaced by Charles Bullfinch, a Bostonese architect. The latter followed Latrobe's plans in all particulars, and finished the building in 1827. The wings, which are of white marble, were added in 1851, and were designed by Thomas U. Walter, of Philadelphia, who prepared also the drawings for the dome. In 1867 the Capitol of the United States of America was completed.

The Capitol is 751 feet long and 324 feet wide, covering nearly four acres of ground. The total height from the base line of the eastern front of the building to the crest of the statue of Freedom which surmounts the dome is 307½ feet. The diameter of the dome is 135½ feet. The ground floor of the north wing is occupied by the Senate, and contains the famous bronze door designed by Randolph Rogers. The south wing contains the Hall of Representatives. On this floor are also the great Rotunda, the National Statuary Hall, the Library of Congress, and the Supreme Court Room. The Rotunda is in the centre of the original Capitol, and is 180 feet high.

Horatio Greenough's celebrated statue of George Washington occupies a position on the eastern grounds of the building, facing the grand portico. The grounds around the Capitol have been tastefully laid out. The total amount appropriated by Congress since 1800 for the construction of the Capitol is $15,000,000.

The Senate Chamber

IS situated in the north wing of the Capitol. It is 112 feet long, 82 feet wide, and 30 feet high. The ceiling is constructed of iron girders and cross pieces with glass panels decorated with national emblems. The walls are decorated in gold and buff. The floor is covered with a heavy carpet, and the desks and chairs of the Senators are arranged in concentric semicircles. The President of the Senate sits on a small dais, before a wide desk. At his right is the Sergeant-at-Arms, and at his left sits the assistant door-keeper. A gallery is reserved for the members of the foreign legations, and galleries for the friends of the members of the Senate. The gallery for the representatives of the press is directly over the chair of the President. These galleries, together with the galleries for the public, will seat upwards of 1,000 persons.

The Hall of the House of Representatives

IS 139 feet long, 93 feet wide, and 36 feet high. It is situated in the south wing of the Capitol. The chairs and desks of the Representatives are arranged in the same manner as in the Senate Chamber. The Speaker's chair is placed on a platform. On the right of the Speaker is a stand on which the mace is placed when Congress is in session. The ceiling is profusely gilded and decorated with panels bearing the coats-of-arms of the different states. The galleries offer ample room for 2,000 visitors.

The 325 Representatives in Congress are apportioned at present (1889) as follows: Alabama, 8; Arkansas, 5; California, 6; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 4; Delaware, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 10; Illinois, 20; Indiana, 13; Iowa, 11; Kansas, 7; Kentucky, 11; Louisiana, 6; Maine, 4; Maryland, 6; Massachusetts, 12; Michigan, 11; Minnesota, 5; Mississippi, 7; Missouri, 14; Nebraska, 3; Nevada, 1; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 7; New York, 34; North Carolina, 9; Ohio, 21; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 28; Rhode Island, 2; South Carolina, 7; Tennessee, 10; Texas, 11; Vermont, 2; Virginia, 10; West Virginia, 4; Wisconsin, 9.

The White House,

R Executive Mansion, is situated on Pennsylvania Avenue, between the Treasury building and the State, Navy, and War building, facing Lafayette Park. It stands back from the Avenue in a grove of sycamores, oaks, and poplars. It was designed and built by James Hogan, and has sheltered all the Presidents of the United States during their official terms except George Washington, who selected its site and showed the greatest interest in the progress of the home of his successors. In October of the year 1800 President Adams entered into possession of the finished building. In the middle of President Madison's second term, in August, 1814, the British troops partially destroyed the White House, after having partaken of a dinner which Mrs. Madison had intended to give to some friends.

The White House is built of sandstone, painted white. It is 170 feet long and 86 feet broad. It is two stories high, and contains also a basement, which is, however, not visible from the front. The main entrance is overshadowed by a large portico, which is approached from Pennsylvania Avenue by two drives ways. The grounds are beautifully kept, and contain fountains, beautiful flowerbeds, and lawns. A circular colonnade is on the south side of the building. A conservatory adjoins the house on the west. The state parlors — the East Room, the Green Room, the Blue Room, and the Red Room — are on the ground floor, as is also the State Dining-room. The second story contains the President's business offices, the Library, the Cabinet-room, and his private apartments. The building cost over $1,640,000, and is run at a cost of considerably over $100,000 yearly. It costs yearly $15,000 to light the building and the grounds, while the greenhouses are kept at an expense of $6,000 per annum. Compared to the prodigious cost of European courts, however, this sum is an eloquent sermon on Jeffersonian simplicity.

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The White House,

SOUTH front, overlooks a park sloping gradually to the banks of the Potomac, and offers a magnificent prospect of the wooded hills of Virginia and Maryland. This park belongs to the government reservation called "The President's Grounds," in which the White House is situated. The basement, which is invisible from the Pennsylvania side, is entirely above ground here, owing to the sloping of the ground, and gives the edifice a facade of three stories. Directly in front of the south portico is a stand from which open-air concerts are given every Saturday afternoon during the summer season, which are free to the public.

The main plan of the White House was copied by Hogan from the Duke of Leinster's mansion at Dublin, and, as it stands to-day, the "President's Palace" is a faithful copy of the Irish nobleman's house. The portico with the Ionic columns at the front of the building was placed there in 1829 by President Jackson. Otherwise no alterations or additions have been made to it since its completion in the latter part of 1799. The White House is now inadequate to the social and official surroundings of the American President, and it is proposed to retain the present building for the executive office, and to erect a new and more spacious Executive Mansion.

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The Green Room

S furnished and decorated in green, a pale green wall-paper with sprays of gold covering the walls. At official receptions the President receives his guests in this room, where they are presented to him by the Marshal of the District of Columbia. After their presentation the guests retire to the other state apartments. The Green Room contains also the life-size painting of Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, by Huntington. The canvas is over seven feet high; the oaken frame was made by the Cincinnati School of Design, and is over ten feet in height. This picture of Mrs. Hayes was presented to the nation by the National Temperance Union in 1881. In this room hang also portraits of Mrs. Polk and Mrs. Tyler.

The Blue Room

S oval in form, and decorated and furnished in light blue. In this room the President receives on ceremonial or social occasions. The walls are tastefully ornamented in blue and gold, and the upholstery in silk with gold trimmings is superb. This room opens into the Red Room, which is the President's family drawing-room, and in turn gives access to the State Dining-room.

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The War, State, and Navy Departments

CCUPY the immense structure in Renaissance style on Pennsylvania Avenue, west of the White House, which was erected in 1871–87, from designs by A. B. Mullett. It is 567 feet long, with 342 feet frontage, and is 145 feet high. It covers 4½ acres of ground, and cost $10,700,000. The State Department occupies the south front, the War Department the north front, and the Navy Department the east front. In one of the rooms of the War Department is a collection of pictures of former Secretaries of War, and another room contains portraits of famous soldiers. The headquarters of the army are also established here, and contain portraits of all the commanders-in-chief, from Washington to Sheridan. From 1775 to the present day the army has had 17 commanders-in-chief, but Congress conferred the full title of General on only four of them —Washington, Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan.

The Department of State embraces a Diplomatic Bureau, a Consular Bureau, a Bureau of Indexes and Archives, a Bureau of Accounts, a Bureau of Statistics, a Bureau of Rolls, and several minor divisions. The great seal of the United States is kept in this department, which contains also the first draught of the Declaration of Independence and of the Federal Constitution, Washington's commission as commander-in-chief of the American army, letters and papers of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and some of the other early Presidents, and many other precious documents and relics of the War of Independence.

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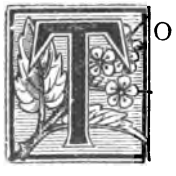
The View from the War Department



O the eastward embraces the White House, its greenhouses and grounds, the Treasury building, and offers a magnificent vista of Pennsylvania Avenue, stretching itself broad and straight with its fine buildings and shady sidewalks towards the Capitol, which rises majestically in the background. This view gives a deeper meaning to the epithet of "City of Magnificent Distances," bestowed on Washington by the witty Abbé Correa de Sorra, the Minister from Portugal, in 1804. That distinguished foreigner referred to the great distances that separated the few straggling houses which constituted the National Capital at that time, and never dreamt that his witticism would apply to it one day in a widely different sense. Washington is still the City of Magnificent Distances, the city of grand avenues and noble streets. This is largely due, it is said, to Alexander R. Shepherd, who had the faculty of looking forward, and who constructed a plan of comprehensive improvements. Work was begun in 1871, and in a few years the old ugly city had given place to the magnificent Capital of to-day.

UNIV. OF MICH.

The Treasury Building,

ON the east side of the Executive Mansion, is constructed of Virginia freestone and Maine granite. It is 460 feet long, and has a frontage of 264 feet on Pennsylvania Avenue. It is Grecian in architecture, three stories high, and surmounted by a balustrade. The façades on the northwest and south have porticoes of Ionic columns, cut out of immense monoliths quarried in Maine.

The Treasury Department was established by an act of Congress in 1789. This act created the office of Secretary of the Treasury, and confided to his care the entire charge of the finances of the government, which had hitherto been in the hands of commissioners. The first Treasury building — a small, wooden structure — was burned to the ground in 1814 by the British troops. The second building was also destroyed by fire in 1833. The cornerstone of the present building was laid by President Jackson, Robert Mills being the architect. It was completed in 1841, and the extensions were added in 1855, from designs made by Thomas U. Walter. These extensions were completed in 1869. The building had cost up to that time over $7,000,000, and since then immense sums have been spent in alterations and decorations. It contains 200 rooms, exclusive of the vaults in the basement. The principal divisions of the Treasury Department are: the offices of the First and Second Comptroller, the Commissioner of Customs, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Treasurer of the U. S., the Register of the Treasury, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Director of the Mint, and the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Auditors.

UNIV. OF MICH.

The Patent Office

CCUPIES the greater part of the building situated between Seventh and Ninth and F and G Streets, that bears its name. It is an imposing structure, in Doric style, built of sandstone painted white. The extension is of white marble. The building is 410 feet long and 275 feet broad. The east and west halls are each 271 feet in length and 64 feet wide. The north and south halls are about 145 feet long. The lower stories of the Patent Office are occupied by the various offices of the Department of the Interior. Upwards of 21,000 patents are issued yearly, exclusive of the numberless trademarks, labels, etc., that are registered each year. The model rooms are on the second floor, and contain over 300.000 models of patented articles, arranged in classes and subdivisions, all properly labeled and indexed, and covering almost every conceivable thing under the sun. Among the curiosities in these rooms are: Benjamin Franklin's printing-press, a model patented by Abraham Lincoln in 1847 (in case 23), and a pair of gloves which belonged to President Lincoln. A fine library is also connected with the Patent Office. It contains over 12,000 volumes, including the best foreign and American works in all the branches of invention and mechanics. The Patent Office is not only self-sustaining, but very profitable. Its annual receipts far exceed the expenditures. When a patent is applied for, it is carefully examined, and the necessary investigations made to determine whether or not the patent can be granted. Three examiners-in-chief finally decide the grants. A patent continues for 17 years, unless the article has been previously patented in a foreign country, when the American patent expires with the foreign one.

The Post-Office

CCUPIES the square situated between Seventh and Eighth and E and F Streets, Northwest. Its foundations were laid in 1839, the D Street portion having been designed by Robert Mills, while the extension was designed by T. U. Walter, and commenced in June, 1855. The style is pure Corinthian, the materials used in its construction being New York and Maryland white marble. It is 300 feet long by 204 feet broad, two stories high, resting on a rustic basement, and contains deep vaults.

There are at present 47,683 post-offices in the United States, which require the services of 67,000 officials. The Dead-Letter Office is one of the most interesting branches of the postal service. Nearly 15,000 letters are received here daily from different parts of the country, exclusive of packages and other mail matter. About 10,000 letters are forwarded every year to this office without any address whatever on the envelopes. One of the greatest curiosities in the Post-Office Department is the book of post-office accounts kept by Dr. Franklin, the first Postmaster General of the Colonies.

The Pension Office

S situated on the northern end of Judiciary Square, near G Street. It is built in Renaissance style, of pressed brick, with terra cotta mouldings, and is 400 feet long by 200 feet broad, the walls being 75 feet high. The walls enclose an interior courtyard, which has a high roof of iron and glass, and is crowned with a dome. A notable feature of the exterior decoration is the band of sculpture in terra cotta on the level of the second story, three feet in height and 1200 feet long, which represents various scenes of a soldier's life, with incidents from the career of a man-of-war's man. The terra cotta ornaments, medallions, and cornices are also very handsome. The Pension Office disburses annually $30,000,000 for pensions, and as much more for arrears of pensions. The total cost of the building was about $500,000.

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The Hall of the Pension Office

IS 316 feet long by 116 feet wide. It consists of an immense court occupying the centre of the building, and is covered with an iron framed glass roof slated with hollow tiles to exclude the inclemencies of the weather. It is crowned with a dome, and is lighted by clear-story windows situated above the roof of the office-rooms on the third floor. Around the sides of the court run two galleries, one above the other, supported by Ionic and Doric columns. Four broad stairways lead up to these galleries, which give direct access to the offices and rooms of the second and third stories. All the rooms in the building communicate directly with the outside air, and receive additional light from the court. The court will easily accommodate 18,000 persons at an inauguration ball, and will contain 59,000 persons closely packed.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving

S situated at the corner of Fourteenth and B Streets, Southwest. It is a brick building of the Romanesque style, three stories high, with a high basement, and on the north end a tall tower. It was erected in 1879 at a cost of $300,000, the interior appointments being elaborate and of the best workmanship. In this building the national paper currency is manufactured. The engraving division, where are made the plates from which the bank-notes are printed , is in the basement. The engravers are carefully guarded by watchmen, and the plates, blocks, and rolls, are securely locked each night in a safety vault. In all the divisions of this department the employees are under close and constant surveillance. The printing division occupies the entire third story. There are 250 plate presses, and a force of 500 male and female clerks constantly engaged in the printing of bank-notes, bonds, and internal revenue stamps. The examining, lettering and numbering, and counting divisions are on the second floor. The imperfect sheets are separated here and sent to the redemption department of the Treasury, while the perfect sheets are lettered and numbered, counted, and sent to the basement to receive the red seal of the government. The new made bank-notes are then conveyed to the Treasury in guarded wagons.

UNIV. OF MICH.

The Department of Agriculture

S situated directly west of the Smithsonian Institution, between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets. It is in Renaissance style, three stories high, with a mansard roof, built of pressed brick with brown stone trimmings, and is 170 feet long and 61 feet wide. On the first floor are the offices of the Department, the library, and rooms for the Chief Clerk and his staff. On the second floor is the Museum of Agriculture, which illustrates the agricultural products of the country, and the substances manufactured from them. Every vegetable raised from California to Maine, and many minerals and woods are contained in the collection, which embraces also the game birds and poultry of the United States. On the third story are the herbarium and the taxidermists' workshops. The botanical collections gathered by government expeditions are here on exposition. The packing rooms and the steam-engines are in the basement. The building was erected in 1868, at a cost of about $200,000.

Adjoining the building on the west are extensive conservatories, built of glass and iron. They contain the principal varieties of tropical plants, medical plants, plants furnishing dyes, gums and textile fibres, and an extensive collection of foreign grapes. The seed-house, where the garden, field, and flower seeds are stored, and whence they are distributed all over the country, are to the east of the Department building. Over two million packages of seeds are distributed yearly by the Department of Agriculture, which is one of the most important factors in the prosperity of the country, and which has done untold good to its agricultural interests. Every department of agronomy is studied here, extensive experiments are constantly made, and the thousands of inquiries sent to the Department on subjects relating to agriculture are minutely answered. A voluminous report is issued annually in book form, 300,000 copies of which are distributed chiefly in the Western States. Monthly crops reports are also compiled by the Department and published in the papers and in pamphlet form.

The Army Medical Museum

N Tenth Street was the scene of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on Friday, April 14, 1865, the day after the celebration of the close of the Civil War. Opposite the museum is the Peterson house whither the Emancipator was carried, and where he died on the following day. A marble tablet on the house bears the record of Lincoln's death. Ford's Theatre, as the building was called at the time of the assassination, was purchased by the government in 1866. It was entirely reconstructed, and is now used for the Army Medical Museum, and the record and pension division of the Surgeon General's Department.

The National Museum

AS erected in 1879 by the government as an annex to the Smithsonian Institution. It was originally designed to contain the art treasures exhibited by foreign governments at the Centennial Exhibition,—which were presented to the United States, but its scope has gradually been widened, and it now is a general museum in which all the geological and industrial collections of the government are kept on exhibition. It also contains the Washington relics. It is built of brick, in variegated courses, and mainly but one story high, the pavilions at the four corners are three stories in height, and the four entrances are flanked by towers. The dome in the centre rises to a height of 108 feet. On the ground floor are 17 halls, divided only by the columns supporting the roof, and on the main floor and on the two upper stories of the pavilions and the towers there are 135 rooms, which are devoted to offices, working rooms, etc. The floors are constructed of tiles laid in artistic forms.

The museum contains large collections of industrial products, historical relics, and ethnological objects, and its collections are rapidly becoming the largest and most complete in the world.

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The Soldiers' Home

S situated a short distance from Washington on the Rock Creek road in the District of Columbia. The main building is constructed of white marble, has a frontage of 200 feet, and a tall central tower. The wing is 60 feet in length. Several marble cottages, occupied by the officials, are situated in the grounds, which cover an area of 500 acres, as is also a summer house for the Presidents of the United States. The home was founded in 1851 at the suggestion of General Winfield Scott, whose statue occupies a commanding position on the grounds, with the money levied by him on the City of Mexico for violation of the truce. Veterans of the Mexican War, and privates of the regular army who have served faithfully for twenty years, or have been disabled in the service of the country, are entitled to residence in this institution, which by reason of the excellent care taken of its inmates fully deserves the name of Home. It is under the supervision of a board of high army officers, presided over by the Lieutenant-General commanding the American Army.

The Navy Yard

S located on the Anacostia, the eastern branch of the Potomac. It contains two ship-houses, a copper-rolling mill, a naval storehouse, foundries, and shops for the manufacture of ordance, and all the various articles used in the equipment of war vessels. The yard comprises 42 acres of ground. In the naval museum attached to it are many interesting relics of olden times, among them being a Spanish gun, cast in 1490, brought to America by Cortez, and which was used in the conquest of Peru ; a mortar taken from Cornwallis, and many other objects of interest. The Marine Barracks, where the marine corps of the United States Navy is quartered, are also near the Navy Yard. Nearly all the great war vessels possessed by the United States during the last fifty years were built at this establishment.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

AS erected by the late W. W. Corcoran in 1859, at a cost of $250,000. The gallery is situated on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventeenth Street, opposite the State, War, and Navy Department. The building is two stories high, and the front is divided into recesses by pilasters, and has four niches containing statues of Dürer, Raphael, Phidias, and Michel Angelo. In the seven niches on Seventeenth Street are statues of Titian, Rubens, Rembrandt, Crawford, Canova, Murillo, and Da Vinci. The statues are of marble, and were executed by M. Ezekiel. The frontage of the gallery is 106 feet; its depth is 125 feet. It is built of pressed brick, with brown-stone facings and ornaments, and is in Renaissance style with a mansard roof. The main entrance is on Pennsylvania Avenue, and is guarded by two lions in bronze, which are reproductions of Canova's lions at the tomb of Clement XIII. in Rome. The first floor is entirely devoted to sculpture, bronzes, and ceramics. It contains a hall for casts from the best works of the Greek sculptors, a hall of modern sculpture, and a gallery of the Renaissance. On this floor are also the Trustees' rooms, the janitor's apartments, etc. In the second story are four galleries of paintings, of which the east gallery contains the collection of American portraits, and the southwest gallery the Ogle Tayloe collection of paintings. In the Octagon Room are Powers' world-famous "Greek Slave" and "The Veiled Nun," together with some busts of celebrated men. The founder of the gallery was known throughout the land for his philanthropy and public spirit. He died on February 24th, 1888, in the 90th year of his age, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

The Smithsonian Institution

S built of red sandstone in Norman style, from designs furnished by Mr. Renwick of New York. It consists of a centre building, 250 feet long, and 55 feet wide, two connecting ranges and cloister, 60 by 49 feet each, and two wings, each 40 by 80 feet. Above the north entrance are two towers, of which the taller one is 145 feet high. Over the south entrance is a large square tower, 91 feet in height, and the main building is flanked at each angle by a tower, while the wings have smaller towers, making nine towers in all. The grounds comprise 52 acres of ground. The first floor of the main building contains a collection of birds, over 8,000 in number, while the east wing is used by the administrative offices of the Institution, the National Museum, and the U. S. Fish Commission. On the second floor is the Anthropological Hall, while in the south part of the building is the collection of living animals native to the United States, which is to form the nucleus of a zoölogical garden to be established in Washington.

"The Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," was founded with the money left to the United States of America for that purpose by John Smithson, who died in 1828, leaving an estate valued at half a million dollars. In 1838 this bequest was transferred to the United States by the Chancery Court of England. The money was transferred to the United States Treasury, where it gathered interest until 1846, when a law was passed establishing the Institution as it now is. The corner-stone was laid on May 1, 1847, and it was completed in 1856 at a cost of $450,000, which was paid with the accumulated interest on the original bequest. The Institution expends about $70,000 yearly in various scientific investigations, and publishes a series of volumes, entitled the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge."

The Garfield Statue,

BY John Q. A. Ward, stands at the Maryland Avenue entrance to the Capitol Park. It was erected by President Garfield's comrades of the Army of the Cumberland in 1887. The statue is of bronze, and cost $33,500. The pedestal with the recumbent figures representing the Student, the Warrior, and the Statesman, was erected by Congress at a cost of $31,500. The total height of the statue is 18 feet.

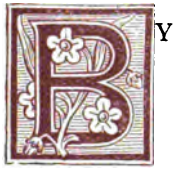
The Garfield Memorial Church is on Vermont Avenue, between N and O Streets. In the small chapel which formerly stood on this site President Garfield worshiped for many years, and his pew, draped in black and bearing a silver tablet, has been placed in the present edifice.

In the waiting-room of the Washington station of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, where President Garfield was shot on July 2, 1881, is a marble memorial tablet, erected by the railroad company directly over the spot where he fell.

The Statue of General Jackson

AS unveiled on the 8th of January, 1853. It is the work of Clark Mills, and was cast from the brass guns and mortars captured by the hero of New Orleans. The statue is about one-third larger than life, and weighs 15 tons. The horse is poised upon its hind feet without being secured by the usual bars and rivets. The statue occupies the center of Lafayette Square, opposite the White House. Its total cost was $50,000.

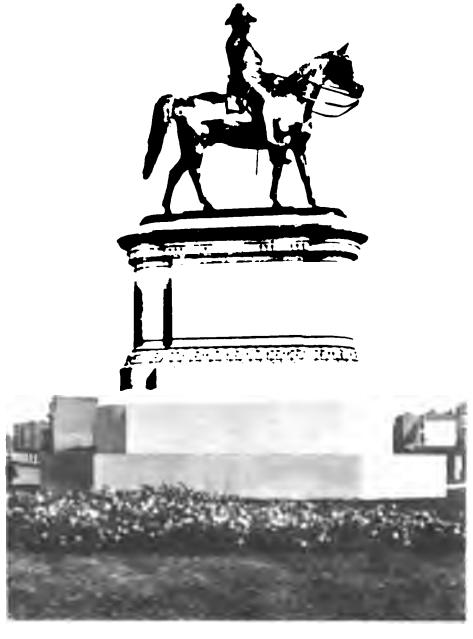
The Statue of Rear Admiral Samuel F. Dupont,



Y Launt Thompson, stands in the center of the circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Connecticut Avenues. It was ordered by Congress in 1882, and erected in 1884, Hon. Thomas F. Bayard delivering the oration. The statue represents the Admiral in full uniform, standing on the quarter deck, marine glass in hand. The pedestal is composed of gray granite, on a base of blue rock. The total cost of the statue was $14,000.

The Equestrian Statue of General George H. Thomas

TANDS on Thomas Circle, at the intersection of Fourteenth Street, Massachusetts and Vermont Avenues. The statue was erected by the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, Congress having provided the money for the pedestal. Statue and pedestal are 32 feet high, and cost $75,000. The pedestal is of granite, ornamented with bronze tablets on which are the insignia of the Army of the Cumberland. The statue was unveiled on the 19th day of November, the oration being delivered by Hon. Stanley Matthews.



The Washington Monument

RISES to the height of 555 feet from its base, and is 572 feet above the surface of the surrounding country, as it stands on a terrace 17 feet high. The foundation of the shaft is 126 feet square, and is 37 feet below its base. It is constructed of solid blue rock and bears a weight of 81,120 tons. The base of the monument is 55 feet square, the lower walls measuring 15 feet in thickness. At the height of 500 feet, where the pyramidal cap begins, the walls are 35 feet square, and 18 inches thick. The inside of the walls is of granite laid in regular courses with the marble on the outside, except for the first 150 feet from the base where the granite has not been laid in regular courses. The top is entirely constructed of marble. The cap stone is 5 feet 2½ inches high, and about 3 feet square at its base. The aluminium tip which finishes the pyramid is 9 inches in height, 4½ inches in diameter at the base, and weighs 6¼ pounds. In the interior of the lower walls are set a number of memorial stones sent by states, corporations, and foreign governments, to be embodied in the monument. The interior of the shaft is fitted with iron steps, 900 to the 500 feet, and an elevator runs to the top. The monument is lighted by electricity, the only windows in it being in the lower course of the roof-stones, 2 on each side.

The cornerstone of the monument was laid on July 4th, 1848. Work was begun at once, and continued till 1854, when it was suspended for lack of funds. In 1876 the government took charge of the construction, and Colonel T. L. Casey, of the Corps of Engineers, detailed to superintend the work. He set the capstone on December 6, 1884, in the presence of President Arthur, W. W. Corcoran, M. E. Bell, Edward Clark, and John Newton. The monument was dedicated on the 21st of February, 1885.

Christ Episcopal Church,

IN Alexandria, was dedicated in 1765. It is built of bricks imported from England; and General Washington was once a member of its vestry. In the grave yard surrounding the edifice are several quaint old tombstones. Alexandria was founded in 1748, and for several years was known as Bellhaven. It soon came to prominence as the shipping port of Virginia planters, and had a large foreign trade. To-day it is a sleepy, old-fashioned town, its very atmosphere redolent of the times that are past, and with that strange charm which the relics and buildings of colonial times impart. The bustle and activity of neighboring Washington accentuate the drowsy quiet of this *ville morte* on the Potomac.

General Washington's Pew

IN Christ Church is religiously kept as it was when the great patriot occupied it. It has a high back and three seats, two of which face each other, while the third is against the wall. Washington always occupied the latter. The number of the pew is 59. General Lee used to occupy pew No. 49 in this church during his life at Arlington.

Arlington

ONTAINS the largest and most important of the 82 military burial grounds established throughout the country by the United States government. It contains the graves of over 16,000 soldiers, the most interesting monument in the cemetery being the granite tomb erected over the remains of 2,111 unknown soldiers gathered from the battle fields of Bull Run and on the route to the Rappahannock. The estate comprises 1160 acres, and was originally part of the vast land grant made to Robert Howson by Sir William Berkeley, governor of Virginia in the reign of George II. The present Arlington estate was purchased by John Custis, the great-grandfather of George Washington Parke Custis, and remained in the possession of his descendants until the beginning of the Rebellion, when it was confiscated by the U. S. government. Subsequently the government paid $150,000 for it to George Washington Custis Lee, the eldest son of the great Confederate leader.

General Lee's Home

T Arlington consists of a large centre building with two wings. It is constructed of brick covered with stucco, and has a frontage of 140 feet. The lofty portico of the mansion is supported by eight majestic columns. The view of the surrounding country which this portico offers, is one of the finest in the world, comprising as it does the sweep of the river and the imposing buildings of the national capital. The house at Arlington gains additional historical interest from the fact that George Washington also has inhabited it with his wife.

Cabin John Bridge

ROSSES the Potomac between the Great Falls and the Little Falls, about 14 miles above Washington. It conveys the aqueduct of the Washington Water Works, is 420 feet long, and has an arch 220 feet in length with 57½ feet rise. This is said to be the longest arch of masonry in the world. The total cost of the bridge was $237,000.

Mount Vernon

IS situated on the western bank of the Potomac, in Fairfax County, Virginia, 16 miles from Washington. What is now known as Mount Vernon is but a small part of the original plantation, and is in the possession of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, incorporated in 1856. The mansion fronts to the northwest, with its rear, on which is the piazza, looking towards the river. It is constructed of wood, painted in imitation of stone, has two stories and an attic, and is 96 feet long, and 30 feet wide. The room in which the First President died on December 14th, 1799, is on the second story. It contains the bedstead on which he lay in his last hours, and has been religiously preserved as it was in the days when the founder of American Independence occupied it. Many relics of Washington are kept in the building, among them being the key of the Bastille presented to him by the Marquis de Lafayette, while the room which Martha Washington occupied after her husband's death, and Lafayette's room are also shown to visitors.

The Tomb of George Washington

IS situated a short distance south of the mansion. The exterior tomb is constructed of brick, with a high, arched entrance, closed by an iron gate, above which, on a plain slab, are the words: "Within this enclosure rest the remains of General George Washington." Over the interior tomb is a stone panel, with the inscription: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." The marble sarcophagus containing Washington's remains is placed directly in front of the entrance, and is visible from without. It is cut out of one solid piece of marble, and bears on its covering stone the coat of arms of the United States, sculptured on a draped flag, and the name "Washington." A few feet from it is a similar sarcophagus, inscribed, "Martha, Consort of Washington. Died May 21, 1801, aged 71 years." The vault at the rear of the enclosure contains the remains of Judge Bushrod Washington, and other members of the Washington family. In front of the tomb are two marble monuments erected in memory of Judge Washington, and John Augustine Washington.